

# The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

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## The Day We Celebrate.

To-day is the birthday of GEORGE WASHINGTON. It is a good day to reflect on America's great good fortune, of which he was a founder, and to cultivate the humble and grateful spirit that becomes those who enjoy it.

We are industrially prosperous, as WASHINGTON hoped that we would be. Ready hands and sober heads should keep us so.

We are politically well ordered, as WASHINGTON helped to make us; and with a mind to preserving that inestimable blessing, we call attention to the article that follows this.

## The Election of Senators by the People.

Last week without debate, without so much consideration as would have been given to a private pension or to the correction of a military record, the House of Representatives passed and sent over to the Senate an amendment to the Constitution, changing one of the most fundamental provisions of our organic law. This indifference is quite in keeping with the character of the entire movement for the election of Senators by the people. Those who advocate it seem to think that it is enough to state what they want without reason or argument, and that there can be no chance either reason or argument against their proposition.

In this attitude of mind they differ singularly from the men who framed the Constitution, who were considered in their own day, and have been considered since, persons of rather more than average intelligence. Nothing so absorbed the attention of those most memorable Americans, nothing came so near wrecking the whole scheme, as the question of the distribution of the powers of government between the people as a whole and the States which formed the Union. The most conspicuous compromise made was on this point, and between these contending forces and the Senate was the key of the whole arrangement. The importance attached to the Senate by the Framers is shown by the fact that the only provision of the Constitution which cannot be changed without the consent of every State is that providing for the equality of State representation in the Senate.

Yet the House of Representatives proposes to change radically the character of the Senate, as if it was of no more importance than the hour of their daily adjournment; and the advocates of the measure generally seem to think that to obtain their ends they are warranted in calling a convention to revise the entire Constitution and that they have only to shout "Election by the people," and all discussion must end.

The change proposed is too grave to be passed upon without the fullest debate and argument. In the first place, the real question is not whether Senators should be elected by the people, for they are elected by the people now, but how and by what methods the people shall elect them. The election of Senators as the representatives of the States in the National Government was given by the framers of the Constitution to the Legislatures which represented in concrete form the political power of each State. To make the Senate an effective and representative upper chamber they thus distinguished them from the members of the House, who represent not the State but its population.

For this system of selecting and electing Senators it is now proposed to substitute a different system of selection, and a direct instead of an indirect election by the people. The important point is that involved in the change of method of selection. For the Legislature, a body of men chosen to make laws for a State, acting under oath with a large responsibility guarded and established by Constitutions and laws, we should, if the change prevails, substitute the party nominating convention chosen for a day, unknown to the Constitution and irresponsible except to a party caucus. This is a serious, and on its face a dangerous, alteration.

The agitation in its favor rests on two grounds, namely, that there have been legislative deadlocks which have deprived States of their proper representation in the Senate, and that there has been corruption practised in the election of Senators, notoriously in Montana and Delaware.

Popular election would undoubtedly end deadlocks by allowing a plurality to elect, but a simple act of Congress allowing a plurality of the Legislatures to elect would cure this evil just as effectively, if it is thought desirable, without involving an alteration of the Constitution.

As to corruption, does any sane man suppose that a party nominating convention is less susceptible to corruption

than a Legislature? Every one knows that it would be infinitely more so, and far more tempting to those who wished to use corruption because it would be easier and cheaper and less perilous in its consequences. A member of the Legislature who sells his vote is liable to severe legal penalties; a member of a party convention is liable to none.

Here then is the practical question involved. Is a party convention a safer body to choose Senators than the Legislature of a State? There are many other questions and many arguments in regard to this change which cannot be entered into here, but must be considered before the change is made. The main point, however, is that just stated, the substitution of a party convention for a Legislature in the election of Senators.

Ten years ago Senator HOAR, then in the prime of his powerful and patriotic mind, stated the objections on this point with a terseness which cannot be surpassed, and his speech we quote in conclusion for the benefit of those who think this Constitutional amendment is an axiomatic truth, to be raced through to adoption without thought or consideration:

"It will be seen, I think, very clearly that the change proposed destroys the essential character of the Senate in each of these particulars.  
 "It substitutes a direct election by the people for an election by the Legislature.  
 "For a selection by public officers to whom the great public duty of State legislation is intrusted, there is to be a selection and nomination by conventions composed of persons without other responsibility. This, in most cases, will be the mode in which the majority, practically, will make the choice.  
 "For a selection by men who are themselves selected under strict legal provisions, there is to be, therefore, practically a selection by men who are not chosen in pursuance of any law.  
 "Instead of selection by men under oath of office there must be a choice by men upon whom no oath is imposed.  
 "For a selection by men of whose action there is a record, the choice is practically to be made by men of whom no record exists.  
 "For a choice by men acting under personal responsibility, the selection will be made by men who may act by proxy.  
 "For a choice by a permanent body, there must be a choice by a body lasting but a day.  
 "For a choice in a manner prescribed by national authority, there must be a choice in a manner prescribed in no authority whatever.  
 "For a choice by a body acting by majority, there must be substituted, in the end, a choice by a plurality.  
 "For a choice by a body representing all localities in a State where different local interests are fairly represented, there must be a choice by sheer force of numbers, where the popular masses in great cities will have an undue and disproportionate weight.  
 "Instead of representing different constituencies to secure the different interests in legislation, the Senate and the House are to represent constituents of the same kind, differing only in size.  
 "From the change in the manner of election will surely and inevitably, in my judgment, follow the destruction of the equality of the States in the Senate. It is true the Constitution now provides that no State shall be deprived of its equal vote in the Senate without its consent. But this provision relates to a Senate to be constituted and elected in the old Constitutional manner, and will never be tolerated, in my judgment, by the large States under the proposed arrangement."

The loosening of Family Discipline.  
 One of our correspondents spoke on Friday of "a great wave of domestic moral depravity" as having flowed over Brooklyn a generation ago, "the filth of which is still with us."

It seems to be true that in the generation now growing up there has been a noticeable loss both of reverence for womanhood in large numbers of young men, and of respect for their own womanhood in many young women. Boardless young fellows of decent and well-to-do parentage, as the disclosures brought out in the investigation of the case of the girl BURNS and her relations with Brooks bear witness, make a business of chasing after respectable girls and "picking them up," and they vaunt themselves on their expert proficiency in the arts of the old and hardened roué. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, girls seem to invite such capture by encouraging if not soliciting the advances. At the start, undoubtedly, they do this from careless ignorance and a deficiency of a sense of dignity and propriety. The "mashing" is likely to be on both sides; the girls are as proud of attracting the insulting attentions as the young fellows are of their hardihood in offering them.

We are told that the number of girls of decent parentage who are not at all loath to make acquaintance with young fellows casually encountered by them in streets and other public places, total strangers, has become very large. Not even the preliminary of a "flirtation" takes place. Young fellows do not hesitate to speak to girls strangers to them, and the girls, so far from responding in a spirit of resentment at the impertinence, are not slow in establishing an immediate intimacy, sometimes carried even to a disgraceful extreme soon after the chance acquaintance has been made.

These girls and these young fellows, as the Brooklyn investigations have demonstrated, are not from the bottom of society, by any means. They are well-dressed; the young men have money to spend and like the girls they come from reputable and exceedingly comfortable and often at least relatively refined homes. They are far above the social condition in which the "cadets" of the crowded East Side of the town and their victims are found; yet practically the men are no less destitute of moral sense, and the girls seem to succumb even more readily to a passion for adventure, to vanity, and to indifference to all social propriety. These young people are not from the poor and those who work for wages. The girls are usually at leisure, daughters of families well able to support them, and the young fellows are

either idlers, with rich or well-to-do parents back of them, or they are in receipt of comfortable salaries for working with their wits only. If they had hard work to do they would probably be kept out of mischief.

With a surface of refinement, they are yet without a sense of delicacy. They are chiefly young fellows, and girls who admire their impudence and are not restrained by any feminine reserve from responding to it in kind. We are told that sometimes the girls are the worse in their behavior, the less squeamish, and the more careless of propriety; though, after all, of course, the cause of this feminine demoralization is the consciousness of the men in their treatment of women and the destruction in them of the old-time American reverence for womanhood.

A powerful contributing cause also is the extraordinary looseness of domestic discipline in the families from which these young people come. A man who as a boy was in Richmond during its long siege lately expressed surprise that he had come out morally unscathed from such an experience. Naturally, the usual restraints of the social system had been weakened greatly. Fathers were away at the front, family discipline was loosened necessarily, and boys ran wild. Nothing is more creditable to the people of the South than that they came out of that period of social disorganization, or, at least, violent disturbance, without moral decadence. It proved that they are of good stock. They did not fall into license, or lose their respect for the virtues which are necessary to keep society pure and stable. This demoralization of which we have been speaking, however, is a consequence of a withdrawal from young people of the restraints of family discipline, for which there is no excuse whatever in a peaceful and prosperous community. Children seem to be allowed to have their own sweet will. Daughters are suffered to be abroad at all hours, often wholly unattended, and to form such acquaintances with men as their fancy dictates, their whereabouts and their associates being unknown to their parents. Inevitably under such circumstances many of them fall into mischief, and lose the charm and safeguard of natural feminine reserve, and their womanhood is defiled.

This loosening of wholesome domestic restraints has taken place, too, at a period when well-dressed and precocious young scoundrels, without the fear of God or man before their eyes, are moving about emulous of the reputation of being "mashers" and boastful of their adeptness in feminine demoralization.

The Last Bulwark Tumbles Down.  
 Another vase is broken. Another illusion ceases to illude. Col. MOSES O. WETMORE of St. Louis has been looked upon as the one man in a trust-ridden country who could ride the trusts. His system seemed simple and great. It was this: "Sell your plant to the trust at an enormous profit, start a new plant with the proceeds of the sale, make the trust buy again. Keep on until the trust busts." A handful of determined men with plenty of money and self-possession could break all the trusts in the world if the system didn't break.

Alas, it has broken, if the St. Louis correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the Tobacco Leaf, is not mistaken. According to him the tobacco company organized by Col. WETMORE in 1899, after the tobacco company of which he had been President had been acquired by the trust, has withdrawn from business. The correspondent figures out a loss of from \$900,000 to \$1,350,000 to the stockholders. He reports a rumor that one of these bought the factory building for \$87,000 and sold it for \$225,000. Can it be that the wickedness of trusts infects even the great souls that set out to fight them?

We sincerely hope that the correspondent is wrong. Even if he is right, Col. MOSES WETMORE has the means to start more tobacco factories. But if the Octopus has checked him, millions of hearts must mourn. If Col. MOSES WETMORE's system will not work, nothing is safe from the all-swallowing jaws of monopoly.

The Grand Concourse.  
 A report yesterday that Comptroller GROUT had agreed to the desire of President HAFEN of The Bronx for a contract for as much work as can be done in a year on the Grand Concourse and Boulevard, should be noticed to the municipal administration to stop all work on this enterprise until the plan of it can be properly examined and reported on.

The Grand Concourse originated with the late LOUIS HEINTZ, at the time Commissioner for the trans-Harlem portion of the city. It was an admirable scheme, and, of course, demanded professional skill in its execution commensurate with its cost, which was necessarily very great. But, we believe, never for a moment has its plan come under the eye of an expert who could truthfully be called a landscape architect, a park maker—a man professionally qualified to design parks, both with reference to their beauty and utility and to their relation to the town outside of them. Millions of dollars are to be spent in accordance with the ignorance of the engineers, or chain bearers, or superintendents "landscape architects" into whose hands the laying out of the Concourse was intrusted by Tammany Hall.

We are now in a better atmosphere. Mayor LAW will find in the Concourse one of his greatest opportunities for decent and enlightened administration of New York's affairs.

The Hon. MATTHEW STANLEY GRAY has been many years in politics, and has achieved many many victories. Scarcely any of them, however, was as striking as the grand-patent-double-back-ack-ack success scored on Tuesday in the two cities of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The Quay ticket in Philadelphia was elected over its Republican Reform-Democratic opponent by the terrible majority of 120,000. At Pittsburgh the Republican

Reform-Quay ticket was elected over the anti-Quay ticket by a majority of 10,000, comparatively as great as the Philadelphia. With the Reform, or against Reform, the name of Quay blazes with victory.

Milwaukee has well sustained the West's reputation for bigness, or bignessness. Here, in connection with the theatrical entertainment of Prince HENRY of Prussia we had a flurry over one little opera box, but in Milwaukee the issue is over a whole theatre. The German Consul wants to have a play for the Prince, but the Milwaukee Musical Society has long had the theatre engaged for a concert, and now it looks as if it would be the province of the German Consul and of a portion of Milwaukee's many Germans. Perhaps the best way to compose the matter would be to take Prince HENRY to the concert.

After Lord ROSEBERRY's definite accession from the Liberal leader, Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, the question is: Will the Liberal party go to Lord ROSEBERRY, or will Lord ROSEBERRY go to the Liberal party or to the Conservative party?

## FIGHT IN MARYLAND CAPITOL.

Delegate and Committee Chairman in Fisticuffs Over an Elections Bill.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 21.—Just after the adjournment of the Maryland House of Delegates this morning, a physical encounter took place on the floor of that body between delegates Isaac Loe Straus of Baltimore and L. Lynn Painter of Baltimore county.

Straus had offered an order during the morning session to compel the Committee on Elections, of which Painter is chairman, to report the General Election law introduced by Straus and referred to that committee in a letter from the Straus was particularly severe in his criticism of the committee. After a hard fight the order passed and the session was held closed for the day.

## CAPT. HERLIHY'S APPEAL.

The Case Argued Yesterday Before the Court of Appeals.

ALBANY, Feb. 21.—The appeal of Capt. John D. Herlihy, formerly of the Twelfth police precinct, New York city, from a decision of the Appellate Division, First Department, overruling a decision made by Recorder Goff in sustaining his demurrer to an indictment charging him with wilful neglect of duty as police captain in not suppressing disorderly houses, was argued in the Court of Appeals to-day.

## THE NURSE'S POINT OF VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am a trained nurse and I believe the public would like to hear the nurse's views on the subject of the superintendents by way of a change. Take the case spoken of in your article of a vermin-covered old woman and show me the nurse who would not feel that way. Understand me, I do not mean that the patient should see any sign of repulsion, but if refined, well-educated women are really wanted as nurses, let the filthy and verminous horrors never encountered by her before. It is in this sort of work, but the nurses who really do not mind it are, in my experience, the few who are left. The majority are from the lower walks of life and to whom nursing is only regarded from a pecuniary point of view.

Just take one point in the case of this old beggar woman—vermin-infested. Do you realize what that means? It is in the eyes of judgment on the part of the superintendent in ignoring these facts that the profession of nursing is being so rapidly losing its noble character. In other words, give us the broad education and high culture and you will find the difference in the nurses. The several who are left are the few who are left. The majority are from the lower walks of life and to whom nursing is only regarded from a pecuniary point of view.

## INDIANS AS DAY LABORERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: On the first page of this morning's SUN I notice a despatch from Guthrie to the effect that full-blooded Indians were becoming laborers for the first time on record.

(At least four years ago (and perhaps earlier) full-blooded Navajo Indians were employed as track laborers by the Atchison and Pacific Railroad company, now a part of the Atchison system, in western New Mexico and eastern Arizona. They were paid \$1.00 a day, and were given food and clothing. They were also given a third-rate lodging house, where at the end of a long, trying day of the hardest work they would find a comfortable room and a good night's sleep. It is neither sanitary nor just.

## SCHLEY AND STONEWELL JACKSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In President Roosevelt's findings in the Schley case there is a strong suggestion of Stonewell Jackson in that portion in which he quotes the "dangerous proximity" in which a turn toward the Spaniards would have placed the Brooklyn. The President says: "But it would have been more dangerous for them as well as for her."

In one of Stonewell Jackson's battles a heavy rainstorm deluged the battlefield and interfered with the progress of the battle. The latter in charge reported to Jackson, who was stationed near his headquarters, that the rain was so heavy that the army would have to wait until it cleared. Jackson replied: "Stay where you are. It is raining just as hard where the enemy is as it is here."

## KNOW THE SPOTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It is now in the hands of the Attorney General Knox the spots out of the stock market? J. H. NETTLETON.

New Milford, Conn., Feb. 20.

McClure's Magazine for March is a good number. It opens with an account of Prof. Loeb of Chicago University, whose discovery in the mysteries of life and death have been made public. Miss Morris gives some reminiscences of Henry Bergh; Julian Ralph reviews Captain's book of the war; and a chapter about "Henny Low," and Maurice Porter considers Dennis Mulvihill, sketched by trade. Mayor of Bridgeport, finding him a "true Democrat of today."

## A REASON.

SUN.—The survival of the fittest seems to be a popular doctrine.

He—Well, it is complimentary to all of us who are left.

## WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Assembly Advances Anti-Live Pigeon Shooting Bill—Tunnel Bill Goes Over.

ALBANY, Feb. 21.—The Slater bill prohibiting the use of live pigeons at shooting tournaments was advanced to a third reading in the Assembly to-day. Mr. McKOWN, who was one of the two Democrats present at the session of the lower house objected to its advancement, saying it should go over until Monday night, as "some of the boys want to take a shot at it." At the request of Majority Leader Aids, who was presiding in the absence of Speaker Nixon, Mr. McKOWN consented to the bill being advanced. It will come up on the order of final passage on Monday night, and Mr. Bennett, who is fathering the bill in the Assembly, thinks he has a sufficient number of votes to pass it.

When Senator Stranahan's Pennsylvania Railroad Tunnel bill was reached in general session, Senator Donnelly objected to its consideration until there was a larger attendance of Senators, only fourteen being present. Senator Stranahan said the bill had been before the Senate for three weeks and was the most important New York city measure which would be here this year. Afterward Senator Stranahan said he would not press the bill until next week.

Sensor Aborn's bill, compelling gas companies to place automatic valves on gas meters, to prevent the escape of gas in case of fire, was advanced to a third reading. The Senate also advanced to a third reading Senator Ellsworth's bill, incorporating the Niagara River Power and Water Supply Company. The directors are James P. Simmons, James Low, John A. French, George W. Knox and George E. Greene. The company will generate power and electricity for distribution in Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and throughout the villages standing in Niagara county from water taken in tunnels from the Niagara River. The company's capital is \$5,000,000.

In order to overcome the objection raised by the bill that it creates a monopoly of architects in New York city, Assemblyman Gherardi has amended the bill so as to provide that there shall be a board of architects at the disposal of the Mayor of New York city of at least fifty. He has stricken out the provision that the list is to be made up of not more than thirty architects, and leaving to be given on the bill by the Assembly Committee on Thursday afternoon.

## DRUGGISTS' TRAFFIC IN LIQUOR.

Commissioner Cullinan Has Evidence Against 200 Violators of the Law.

ALBANY, Feb. 21.—State Excise Commissioner Cullinan reports that for some months many complaints were received at the Department of Excise from liquor dealers who had paid the tax, ranging from \$800 in New York to \$50 in the rural districts, that pharmacists, who pay only a nominal tax of \$5 annually for the privilege of selling liquors only on the prescription of a physician, were conducting a general traffic in the liquor. The Commissioner has added to the special agent force could be devoted to that work, a systematic and thorough investigation of the drug traffic in all parts of the State was begun, which has just been completed. It shows flagrant abuses of the kind complained of in almost every city and village of the State.

Evidence of conclusive character has been reported in nearly 200 cases, which will be referred to the State Criminal Court. In addition to its use by the State Commissioner in the enforcement of such civil remedies as he shall consider necessary. The Commissioner will recommend an amendment to section 11 of the Liquor Tax law imposing a largely increased rate of tax on the liquor traffic as conducted by pharmacists, in order to correct existing abuses and protect legitimate dealers against illegal and unjust competition.

## LAND PURCHASES IN CUBA.

Mr. Tawney Wants to Know How Much Was Bought by Non-Residents.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—In the House to-day Mr. Tawney (Rep., Minn.), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, asked unanimous consent for consideration of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish the House such information concerning the number of acres of land in Cuba purchased by non-residents of the United States since the date of American acquisition of the island, and to report to the records of the Military Government in Cuba, and to the records of the War Department, the names of the purchasers, and the places of residence of purchasers, as shown by the records of instruments of conveyance, and also the number of acres contained in each tract so conveyed, also the total acreage of cultivated sugar land in Cuba now owned by the citizens of the United States and by citizens of other countries foreign.

## SALT COMBINE SCORES.

Buyers Cargo From Liverpool That Was Expected to Lower Pacific Coast Prices.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—The arrival of a cargo of 1,500 tons of salt from Liverpool in the French bark Eugene has brought about a sharp drop in the price of salt combine sold to consumers since the salt combine bought the entire cargo long before it reached port.

## SETTLED WITH STARIN.

Compromise in Edgerton's Suit for Division of Profits.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 21.—The suit of William C. Edgerton against John H. Starin of the Starin Transportation Company of New York for \$118,000 damages, was withdrawn in the Superior Court here to-day. The basis of the settlement of the suit was not made public, but it was said that the defendant paid to the plaintiff a small sum.

It was alleged by Edgerton that he was a partner of Starin's in the transportation business between New Haven and New York, operating the Starin line of boats. These vessels, under the management of the profits during his partnership with Mr. Starin. This partnership is said to have existed from 1874 and terminated in force until early in the 80s. Suit was brought five years ago. Mr. Starin claimed that Edgerton was never a partner, but an employee.

## NEMESIS OF THE PUSHAART MEN.

Crusader From Flatbush Invades City Street With Pigeon Pushcart.

PARLEY A. DAILEY of 585 Flatbush avenue, Brooklyn, started reforming pigeons about three months ago. The bland Greeks who stand about City Hall Park are his special prey. Let one of them infringe the law by as much as a hair's breadth and Dailey is down on him.

Stethas Curambo, of 77 Roosevelt street stood before Magistrate Olmsted yesterday in the Centre street police court, and Dailey who had caused his arrest in Chambers street late on Thursday afternoon, stood beside him to see that he got what was coming to him.

"You are accused of blocking Chambers street with your pushcart," charged Magistrate Olmsted.

"Me-on-Chamber-street?" stammered the smiling Curambo, with a look of bland indifference.

"Me-on-Chamber-street?" asked the pedler, smiling more blandly than ever.

Mr. Dailey did not smile. He is a serious person.

"I saw that this man was violating the corporation ordinance—section 241," said "Candy" Olmsted, pointing to the third precinct police station in the basement of the City Hall. The sergeant sent three policemen to assist me in making the arrest. I went forward and engaged this man in conversation. One patrolman came through the basement of the Court House, and another came east from Broadway, and a policeman from the first precinct came from Chambers street. Policeman Hagerty got the man.

Policeman Hagerty didn't look proud of his capture. "I don't know much of this affair," said he, "save that when I came through the Court House cellar, this here Greek was standing in the first precinct, and I took him (pointing to Mr. Dailey) standing for him talking loud like. Here was this here man arguing and this here Greek was talking and saying that he had said, 'I was under orders an' I arrested the Greek.'"

Magistrate Olmsted fined Curambo \$1, while he had a "penalty provided for." Dailey's face bore a look of triumph. He has been almost a daily visitor at the Centre street court for several weeks, either as complainant or chief witness against so-called Greek pedlers.

"I am seeking to fix the responsibility," he explained. "I commenced the crusade against the pigeon pushcart because it failed to fix the responsibility because it went out of office too soon for me. I hope to succeed better this time."

## TO AID IN GOOD ROADS WORK.

Highway Convention Committee Confers With Gov. Odell on Proposed Bills.

ALBANY, Feb. 21.—Gov. Odell had a conference to-day with W. Pierrepont White, chairman of the standing committee of the Highway Convention, in regard to submitting the necessary bills to carry out the resolutions adopted in January by the third annual Highway Convention in the interests of road improvement. The committee urged the Legislature to pass bills of the following character:

A State wide tract, simple in its requirements, positive in enforcement and going into operation two years from this date in order to permit every wagon user to have ample time to adapt the tires of his wagons to the new law in the interest of road maintenance.

An act to enable the towns in the State which have not already taken advantage of the Good Roads law to receive from the State after Jan. 1, 1903, State aid of 25 per cent of the money spent in each town for highway improvement, up to one-tenth of 1 per cent of the assessed valuation of each town, or \$100,000, whichever is less, payable in money in a minimum of at least 50 cents on the dollar of the present commutation rates.

An act to enable the State to submit to the people for their approval the question of the issuing of highway improvement bonds to the amount of \$20,000,000, of which \$5,000,000, or \$10,000,000, shall be the State's share of the cost of road construction, 35 per cent, or \$7,000,000, the counties' share, and 15 per cent, or \$3,000,000, the towns' share. The bonds shall be of the maturity, 50 per cent, by the State, 35 per cent, by the county and 15 per cent, by the towns benefited, and that an assessment annually levied against the property of the counties and towns benefited to retire said bonds and pay the interest on them during a long period of years.

It is understood that the bills as drafted will be submitted to the standing committee of the Highway Convention, which is to hold a meeting in Albany on Feb. 25 and 26. The committee approved the bills, and the committee, the bills will be introduced in the Legislature. There will be a hearing on Feb. 25 and 26, in regard to the plan for raising an appropriation for road building under the Higher-Armstrong act from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 and it is expected there will be large delegations from many counties present in favor of the increase.

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## HOUSE PASSES INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The House this afternoon passed the Indian Appropriation bill and adopted a resolution for an investigation of the Shoshone Agency.

## NEGRO MOTHERS TO FIGHT NEGRO CRIME.

From the Chicago Daily News.

TOKYO, Feb. 16.—Representative negro women of the United States are to call to the attention of the "Black Woman's Burden." It is to reform the negro youth. They say that statistics show an alarming prevalence of crime among the youth of the negro race, and it is due, they believe, to parental neglect, idleness and bad home surroundings. First they will get the mothers interested in the work. If this can be done they say the little is half won. Then they will go after the negro youth, the delinquents, the men loaf on the street and fool with politics while their wives are compelled to get out and work for a living.

The association was organized for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the negro community, industrially and intellectually, and has adopted this platform of principles.

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